

## Bagram opens Parwan Province PRT

Story by Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – The quest to rebuild Afghanistan gained monumental momentum Saturday as a group of more than 100 well-wishers and international media gathered to celebrate the opening of the Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team site here.

The opening signified the expansion of the PRT program, which was established last year as a method of rebuilding Afghanistan by helping build up its provinces.

“Today marks the beginning of a bright, new chapter in our PRT program,” said Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commander of the Combined Joint Task Force-180. “[PRTs were] designed to support the



Photo by Maj. Matthew Garner

*The opening of the Parwan PRT signified the expansion of the PRT program, which was established last year as a method of rebuilding Afghanistan by helping build up its provinces.*

See **PRT**, Page 3

## Rumsfeld, Myers thank troops for their service

Story by Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** – As America approaches the Thanksgiving holiday, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said he is grateful for the voluntary service of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines worldwide as they protect America and take the fight to the terrorists.

Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers held a Pentagon Town Hall Meeting today. The men thanked service members and civilian employees for their service and answered questions about the global war on terrorism and the newly passed National Security Personnel System.

Myers said that the threat posed by global terror networks “is the greatest threat this nation has ever faced.” He said

terrorists want to impose fear on America. “It doesn’t take much,” he said. “I bet every time you schedule an airline flight, or you have a loved one fly to where you are, you think about it differently after 9/11 than you did before 9/11.”

“It’s an element of fear back there that maybe ‘Gee, maybe the world has changed,’” Myers continued. “And what it takes is great public service - civilian and military - to work through this period. There’s not a more important time to have ever served.”

In response to another question, Rumsfeld said that success in the global war of terror is when Americans don’t alter their behavior because of the threat of terror.

Rumsfeld said the United States must go after the terrorist cells where they breed, and go after countries that harbor terrorists.

“We have no choice but to go out and find the terrorists

See **SERVICE**, Page 3

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*Despite the ceasefire announcement, fighting continued in Srinagar.*

## Pakistan declares cease-fire

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan** – Pakistan's prime minister declared a unilateral cease-fire with Indian forces Sunday in the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir, to take effect at the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali's office said the cease-fire will begin with the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which ends Ramadan. The holiday will take place Wednesday or Thursday, depending on the call of clerics who sight a new moon.

Indian and Pakistani forces routinely trade fire across the U.N.-drawn Line of Control that separates Kashmir.

An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said his government will issue a response on Monday, according to *Reuters*.

More than a dozen guerrilla groups have been battling Indian rule in Kashmir almost since independence from Britain and the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

Indian officials estimate 38,000 people have been killed during the 11-year military insurgency and blame Pakistan for stoking the conflict, a charge Islamabad denies.

India says Pakistan trains, arms and funds the militants and orders them to attack Indian military and civilian targets.

Pakistan says it only extends moral support to groups campaigning for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

The two countries — both of whom tested nuclear weapons in 1998 — have fought three wars since independence from Britain, two of them over Kashmir.

Last year the two sides stood on the brink of war following an attack on India's

parliament building that New Delhi blamed on Islamic militant groups backed by Pakistan.



*Soldiers stand near the vehicle of two soldiers killed in an attack in Mosul on Sunday.*

## Three U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – Three U.S. soldiers were killed Sunday in separate attacks on their military convoys in Iraq, according to the U.S. military.

Two soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division were killed Sunday when their convoy came under attack by small-arms fire in the northern town of Mosul, according to a U.S. Army spokesman.

After the deaths, witnesses told *CNN* the soldiers had their throats cut and were stripped of personal effects after they had been shot and wounded while riding in a civilian vehicle. But further investigation by *CNN* casts doubt on the allegations.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt would not comment on the details of the incident. "We have an ongoing investigation, and we're not going to get ghoulish about this."

Another U.S. soldier was killed and two were wounded Sunday morning near Ba'qubah, north of Baghdad, when a military convoy hit a roadside bomb, according to a spokesman for the 4th Infantry Division.

The wounded soldiers are in a stable condition, the spokesman said.

In addition, vehicle accidents claimed the lives of three other soldiers Friday and Saturday, and Iraqi sources said an Iraqi police colonel charged with security at oil installations was shot and killed in northern Iraq.

The deaths bring the total number of U.S. soldiers killed in the Iraq war to 432 – 300 of them under hostile conditions.



*Shevardnadze talks to reporters after resigning.*

## Georgian president steps down

**TBILISI, Georgia** – Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has resigned after huge pressure from tens of thousands of protesters.

Demonstrators outside the parliament building in the capital, Tbilisi, chanted "He has left, he has left" and celebrated with fireworks as news of his resignation was broadcast on large TV screens.

"Today is the greatest day in the history of Georgia — this is the day of our dignity, the birth of a new Georgia," opposition leader Mikhail Saakashvili told the crowd.

"Let us be proud of our country. I'm sure we all will be proud of today and you, your children, and grandchildren will be proud of this very important stage in the history of Georgia," he added.

Another opposition leader, Nino Burdzhanadze, the last elected speaker of the country's parliament, will lead the government until new elections are held in 45 days.

Shevardnadze's resignation, in what the opposition is calling a "bloodless revolution," ends his 11 years as president of the small former Soviet republic.

He stepped down after meeting key opposition figures and Russia's foreign minister, the president's spokesman told *CNN*.

The talks between Shevardnadze, Saakashvili and Zurab Zhvania were held at the president's residence and overseen by the Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

The president took the "dignified step" after about one-and-a-half hours of talks Sunday, Saakashvili told *CNN*.

"He understood the shortcoming which we had. He understood we had corruption," Saakashvili added.

**PRT**, from Page 1

transitional government of Afghanistan [with] efforts to establish a stable, prosperous and secure future of all the people of this great country ... [Today's ceremony represents] a concrete expression of CJTF-180's focus on stabilization (in Afghanistan) as a top priority of this command."

The ceremony was attended by such dignitaries as the American Charge d'Affaires of Afghanistan, senior advisor to Interior Minister of Afghanistan, local province governors and elders, along with coalition forces representatives from the, U.S., Korean, Egyptian Army and Polish Task Force.

"This PRT is the center in which we will coordinate our efforts to rebuild the central capital regions (of Afghanistan)," said Lt. Col. Elizabeth M. Damonte, commander of the Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team as she addressed the crowd at the commencement of the event.

Damonte added that the Parwan PRT's mission is to assist the central government in extending its authority throughout the Capital Region provinces by facilitating the continued stability and security of the region.

The PRT will serve an estimated 3 to 4 million people in the five provinces of

Parwan, Kapisa, Wardak, Lowgar, and Kabul.

"The PRT concept is a really important concept because its efforts involve the reconstruction of Afghanistan, Afghanistan's central government and helping our people," said Shahm Mahmood Miakhel, senior advisor to Interior Minister of Afghanistan. "The people of Afghanistan want a stable and secure environment and the PRT's efforts are helping bring those conditions."

The Parwan PRT, that consists of 30 personnel, (21 U.S. and nine Korean soldiers) will be a center where the five provincial governors and their representatives can inquire about aid for the villages of the provinces.

"The priority projects of the PRT are schools, water wells, medical assistance, bridges, livestock vaccination, human rights, justice and security," said Austin.

"The Parwan opening represents another significant step in the developing impact of the government of Afghanistan," said Col. Mackey J. Hancock, Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force commander as he iterated Austin's sentiments saying, "Where PRTs have been established security, development and a more effective central government presence follows."

There are currently six PRTs in Af-

ghanistan with six more due to be operable by spring of 2004. Kandahar, Herat, and Jalalabad are next provinces scheduled to host a PRT with the inauguration of this facilities slated for December.

"Our goal is a peaceful, prosperous, stable and democratic Afghanistan," said David Sedney, American Charge d'Affaires. "When the planning of PRTs began a year ago it was an experiment, [but] as a result of hard work the PRT concept has exceeded expectations [of every one]."

Sedney added that since the conception of the first PRT every PRT that followed has built on the strengths of the prior and he had no doubt that the Parwan team will carry on that practice.

Though the day's event focused on the Parwan PRT and its desires to revitalize the five provinces it will serve, the ideology of building the nation was not lost – it was heightened.

"The PRT program is CJTF-180 and coalition forces' continuing and firm commitment to work hand in hand with the national government and the people of Afghanistan, as well as with our friends in the international community, to help create a safe and secure environment to serve as a foundation for the future development of [Afghanistan]," said Austin.

**SERVICE**, from Page 1

and find them where they are," he said. "Particularly we have to deal with them before they have the opportunities to kill another 3,000 innocent men, women and children in this country and thousands across the world."

Rumsfeld said the United States has to win the "battle of ideas." The United States has to help rid the world of the conditions that lead people to terrorist groups, he said.

The secretary discussed the National Security Personnel System that makes changes in the civilian personnel arena in the department.

The system is part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act passed by Congress and awaiting the president's signature.

"The studies and experiments done in places like China Lake and elsewhere indicated that with greater flexibility people would be much more likely to reach for a civilian employee if they had the ability to manage them," he said. "At the present time, in some offices you may have 100 employees and you're

trying to manage four, five or six different personnel systems. That's just a nightmare."

He said there are 300,000 military personnel in jobs that could be done by civilians or contractors. Managers reach for a military person today, because it is easier than going through the civilian personnel system.

He said in the future there will be things that make sense for a civilian employee to do, contractors to do and service members to do.

Managers will be much more likely to reach for a civilian now that a system with agility is available.

Rumsfeld said the United States is engaged in a great cause in the war on terror. "This Thanksgiving I am thankful for all of you and what you are doing to serve our country and for the men and women of the U.S. military who defend our freedom every day," he said.

"Needless to say, we'll all keep the men and women on the frontlines - those who will not be with their families on Thanksgiving - in our thoughts and prayers, and their families as well."



## Ministry of Defense works national strategy issues

The new members of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) participated in a three-day workshop, held Nov. 15 -17, to begin developing the National Military Strategy for Afghanistan as well as continue team building efforts. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, the National Security Advisor to the President, opened the workshop by emphasizing the importance of MoD's tasks ahead. He stressed security as the first priority, and the important role it will have in the development and execution of the National Security Policy.

The workshop format consisted of guest speakers, lectures, discussions, and working groups with the goal of assisting the new members of the MoD understand their role in the National Security System.

After lectures on National Strategy Development and National Military Strategy, MoD members broke up into small groups to focus on specific areas of interest. The groups focused on analyzing national interests and policy goals that require military involvement.

They also identified specific military procedures directed by the draft Constitution, the President, UNAMA and the Bonn II agreement.

Other topics of discussion included the military's purpose, its' strategic setting, national military objectives, and force levels. After each topic the groups came together and briefed the outcomes of their discussions.

All in all, the workshop was well received by the members. The Assistant Minister for Reserve Affairs, the Honorable Gul Zarak Zadran, stated "This workshop was very important in bringing out the necessity of our new team to begin the development of the National Military goals and strategy. The small groups were also very useful because it caused us to work together as a team. We come from many different backgrounds, some of us have military experience, some have civilian experience, and these exercises are helping us learn from each other."

*(Information provided by Maj. Craig T. Doescher, OMC-A.)*

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

### "The Attic Expeditions"

1530Z at the MWR building:

Trevor is a young man who has been sentenced to a long stay in a mental hospital after brutally killing his girlfriend...

Tomorrow's movie: "Changing Lanes"



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Mostly Clear H: 55F L: 30F	Mostly Clear H: 57F L: 32F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 59F L: 37F	Dusty H: 61F L: 37F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Haze H: 57F L: 32F	Haze H: 59F L: 34F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly Cloudy H: 50F L: 31F	Partly Cloudy H: 54F L: 32F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *SI.com*)

## Ravens stun Seahawks with OT victory

**BALTIMORE** – There was nothing in Anthony Wright's past to suggest he would be the architect of the greatest comeback in the history of the Baltimore Ravens.

Matt Stover kicked a 42-yard field goal with 6:32 left in overtime Sunday, capping an amazing rally that carried the Ravens past the Seattle Seahawks 44-41.

Making his seventh NFL start — the second with the Ravens after being elevated from third string — Wright helped Baltimore score 10 points in the final 72 seconds of regulation to force overtime.

He then directed a 55-yard drive in the extra period, connecting with Marcus Robinson for 19 yards on a third-and-15 play to set up Stover for the winner.

The frenzied finish seemed out of the question when Baltimore (6-5) fell behind 41-24 with 14:16 remaining, but Wright and the Ravens never gave up hope.

"It was looking very, very dim. But we just let it all hang out," said Wright, 2-5 as an NFL starter. "Everything came together. It's unbelievable, for us to be down as much as we were and to come back."



*Anthony Wright had five career touchdown passes before throwing for four Sunday.*

## U.S. and Internationals to share win

**GEORGE**, South Africa – Tiger Woods called it one of his "most nerve-racking moments ever." Ernie Els couldn't make his legs stop shaking.

The best two players in the world were in a sudden-death playoff Sunday with the Presidents Cup riding on every shot following a stunning comeback by the Americans.

"You let everyone down with one putt," Woods said. "That's a lot of pressure."

Ultimately, their captains felt it was too much pressure for any one player, and so when the first-of-its kind playoff between golf's biggest stars ended, it lacked one big thing. A winner.

Woods and Els each made their putts under excruciating pressure on the third extra hole. Then, as darkness gathered over the Links Course at Fancourt, captains Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player decided they had seen enough.

They called it a tie.



*Tiger Woods called his 18-foot par putt that kept the U.S. alive "one of the biggest putts in my life."*



*Zach Thornton and the Fire couldn't stop Landon Donovan on Sunday.*

## Donovan helps win second MLS title

**CARSON**, Calif. – The many fans who sported blue No. 10 jerseys at the MLS Cup didn't go away disappointed.

Landon Donovan, who at 21 has become America's premier player, scored twice Sunday to lead the San Jose Earthquakes to a 4-2 victory over the Chicago Fire in Major League Soccer's championship match.

On a warm, sunny afternoon before a lively, capacity crowd of 27,000, Donovan became the first player in the MLS Cup's eight-year history to score more than one goal in the championship game.

"After the last two weeks, I have no emotion left. I'm so emotionally drained, it's hard to even celebrate right now," Donovan said, referring to San Jose's dramatic comebacks in the earlier two playoff rounds.

Even the fans who weren't wearing San Jose jerseys with Donovan's number on them almost certainly were entertained by the action-filled match, which featured the most goals ever in the title game.

## Broncos drop critical game to Bears

**DENVER** – Slash is back, at least for one game.

Kordell Stewart scored on a 1-yard run after replacing Chris Chandler, and Paul Edinger kicked four field goals, leading the Bears to a surprising 19-10 win over the Denver Broncos on Sunday.

Chicago (4-7) had 217 total yards coming off consecutive two-point losses, but benefited from good field position and two pass interference penalties against Denver's Lenny Walls. The Bears' average starting position was the 38-yard line, while the start of Denver's drives averaged the 19.

Denver (6-5) clicked last week against San Diego with the return of Jake Plummer, but Clinton Portis was the only one who managed to do much this time. He finished with 165 yards on 14 carries for his second straight 1,000-yard season. Plummer, who missed four games with foot and shoulder injuries, was 19-for-35 for 176 yards. He had several passes swatted down and was even booed by the home fans after trying to force a pass into double coverage in the fourth quarter.

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Rocket explodes outside Afghan hotel

(AP)—A powerful rocket exploded near one of Kabul's few upscale hotels on Saturday night, knocking some guests from their restaurant chairs and shattering windows across the lobby and in many bedrooms. No injuries were reported.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the attack, has raised concerns about security in Kabul, where rocket and mortar attacks have been fairly rare since the fall of the Taliban regime two years ago.

Security is of concern ahead of next month's loya jirga, or grand council, where the new constitution is to be ratified. Some 500 delegates are to take part in the meeting, which is to be held near the hotel and is considered a key step in Afghanistan's recovery from a quarter-century of war.

Police and soldiers from the 5,000-strong NATO-led peace force rushed to the Intercontinental Hotel after the blast, and guarded its front door, as some guests quickly checked out in fear of another attack.

The explosion sent glass raining into the lobby and many guestrooms. The hotel is often used by foreign businessmen and journalists.

"A rocket crater has been identified," said Squadron Leader Paul Rice, a spokesman for the peacekeepers, called the International Security Assistance Force.

Maj. Kevin Arata, another spokesman for the peacekeepers, said the blast caused "some minor structural damage, but no injuries."

Taliban insurgents have launched an increasingly bold campaign throughout the country in recent months, often targeting relief agencies and coalition forces in southern and eastern Afghanistan. But attacks in the capital are relatively rare.

Saturday's attack came six days after a French refugee worker, Bettina Goislard, was gunned down south of Kabul, becoming the first international U.N. worker killed in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban.

## Afghanistan's government attempts to end illegal opium production

KABUL, Afghanistan (*Pak Tribune*)—Afghanistan says it's to stop importing some food and grain in a bid to raise farmers incomes to reduce their reliance on illicit poppy cultivation.

Agriculture Minister Sayed Hussein Anwari has said the government has so far failed to curb opium production, despite the harvest being declared illegal.

He's also warned that money generated by the opium trade is funding the military activities of the ousted Taliban regime, as well as the al Qaeda network it once sheltered.

The United Nations says Afghanistan's opium production is expected to rise six percent this year to 3,600 tons.

He was speaking at joint news conference in Kabul with visiting U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman.

## Afghan camps have links to attacks

RISHKHOR, Afghanistan (AP)—From Bali to Istanbul, New York to Casablanca, the ferocious chain of terror that has choked the world since Sept. 11 has stemmed from a single source camps like this one just south of Kabul, where thousands of young men were indoctrinated in Osama bin Laden's brutal vision.

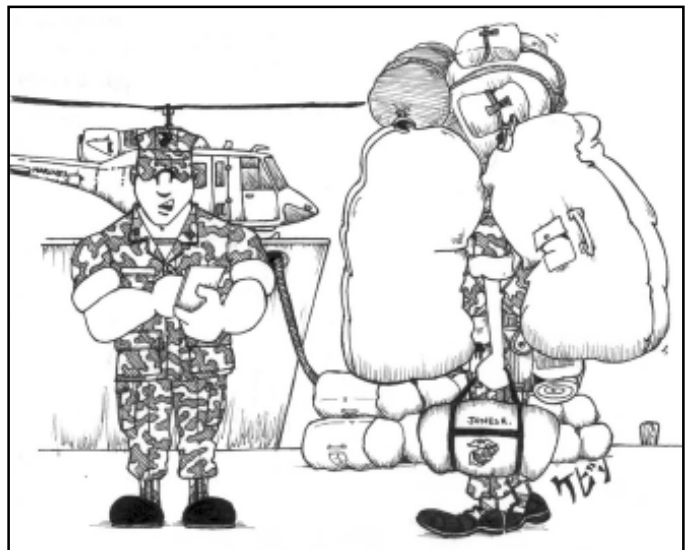
An Afghan link can be traced to nearly every major terrorist attack since the 2001 strikes in New York and at the Pentagon, although not all have been carried out directly by bin Laden's al Qaeda, U.S., European and Asian officials told *The Associated Press*.

Attacks like the ones in Turkey this past week, and others in Indonesia, Morocco, Tunisia and the Philippines, appear to have involved homegrown groups, sometimes working hand-in-hand with al Qaeda. Officials say some of the attacks carry the "hallmarks" of al Qaeda, a way of spreading the group's franchise throughout the world.

"Extremists were trained and either pledged their allegiance to bin Laden and al Qaeda or carried his message and inspiration back to their home countries to initiate more localized jihad efforts," said a U.S. intelligence report obtained by AP.

Between 15,000 and 20,000 people are believed to have trained at Afghan camps since 1996, when bin Laden returned to Afghanistan from Sudan, said a U.S. counterterrorism official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Has anyone seen Pvt. Jones?"



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support